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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/681,333	03/19/2001	Daryl C. Spradlin	57761.000161	9566

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HUNTON & WILLIAMS LLP
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT
1900 K STREET, N.W.
SUITE 1200
WASHINGTON, DC 20006-1109

EXAMINER

STEVENS, THOMAS H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2123

DATE MAILED: 02/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/681,333

Applicant(s)

SPRADLIN ET AL.

Examiner

Thomas H. Stevens

Art Unit

2123

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 October 2004.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-26 were addressed.

Response to Applicant's Arguments

IDS

2. Applicant's are thanked for addressing this issue. Objection is withdrawn.

Claim Interpretation

3. The examiner intent was to grasp what the applicant invention for clarification, not to inject information into the claims. Since applicant admits a part of the examiner's interpretation was correct, the examiner fails to understand applicant's protest.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. Applicant's are thanked for addressing this issue. The examiner meant "couple" the joining of the two words/phrases "" and "as need" since both words were close together in the claims. Secondly, the examiner was unable to find within the specification as to what defined "as needed". The basis of a claimed invention is to establish limitations within the meet and bounds, which "as need" and "" don't (i.e.,

vague and indefinite). Since the applicant has not presented evidence to negate this issue, the rejection stands.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102/103

5. Applicant's are thanked for addressing this issue. The claims recite the same details and instruction as the prior. Rejections stand.

Rejections

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7. Furthermore, regarding claims 1-25, the phrase "as needed" renders the claims vague and indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9. Claims 1-4,7-17,20-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Floating Point System Inc[®] ("Welcome to the LandForm Trial Version from Rapid Imaging Software" (1997)).

Floating Point System teaches a 3-D imaging software package called LandFormGold and LandForm C3, that permits the user to view geographical data in a three-dimensional representation.

Claim 1. A method for building an as-needed computer generated model, comprising the steps of: storing a max-case model file relating to a max-case design model, wherein said max-case design model includes plurality of model sub-components (pg. 1, Introduction); extracting viewer-readable files for each of said plurality of model sub-components (pg. 3, Running the Demo, 3rd paragraph); generating a max-case design script including retrieval information for each of said plurality of model sub-components (pg. 1, paragraph 1, last sentence and pg. 6, line 6); receiving a user selection of an as-needed design script including retrieval information for each of the as-needed model sub-components (pg. 1, 2nd paragraph); retrieving, in a model viewing application, the viewer-readable files for each of the as-needed model sub-components' building the as-needed model from the retrieved viewer-readable files (pg. 4, Changing the View, paragraphs 1-8); and displaying the as-needed model to the user (pg.2, bullets 1-12).

Claim 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of generating a max-case design script further comprises the step of extracting location information for each of the model sub-components (pg. 1, 2nd paragraph).

Claim 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of storing said viewer readable files in at least one computer-readable medium (pg. 2, System Requirements).

Claim 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of storing said user selection of as-needed model sub-components in at least one computer-readable medium (pg. 2, System Requirements).

Claim 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of storing said viewer readable files a VRML file format (pg. 2, bullets 6-7).

Claim 8. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of storing said viewer readable files in a TIFF file format (pg. 2, bullet 9).

Claim 9. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of storing said max case design script and said as-needed design script in an ASCII file format (pg. 2, Type of Source Files, row 8).

Claim 10. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of: extracting spatial orientation information related to the three dimensional orientation of each of the model

sub-components and including the spatial orientation information in the max-case design script (pg.1, Introduction, 1st paragraph); receiving, from the user, sub-component placement and orientation information for each as-needed model sub—component (pg. 1, Introduction, 1st paragraph and pg. 2, bullets 1-12); and including within the as-needed design script, the received sub-component placement and orientation information (pg.2, bullets 1-12).

Claim 11. The method of claim 10, wherein said spatial orientation information includes six degrees of freedom (pg.2, bullets 1-12 and pg. 4, line 2).

Claim 12. The method of claim 10, wherein said spatial orientation information includes coordinates for an angle of rotation about each of the x, y, and z axes (pg.1, Introductions, 1st paragraph; and pg. 4, 1st paragraph), relative to a pre-established coordinate axes, and an offset in each of the x, y, and z (pg.1, Introductions, 1st paragraph; and pg. 4, 1st paragraph) directions relative to a predetermined model center point (pg. 4, Changing the View, paragraphs 2,3,7,8 and pg. 5, 1st paragraph; and pg. 5, Moving Around the Model, 3rd paragraph).

Claim 13. A method for building and displaying an as-needed computer generated model, comprising the steps of (pg.1, Introduction, paragraphs 1-5 and pg. 3, System Requirements): receiving a selection of a plurality of model sub-components that, when assembled together, form the as-needed computer generated model (pg. 5, Overlaying

GeoTIFF Images on Terrain Data, 1st paragraph); executing an as-needed script readable by a model viewing software application and related to the selected plurality of model sub-components(pg. 1, 2nd paragraph), wherein the as-needed script includes retrieval information for each of the plurality of model sub-components(pg. 5, Overlaying GeoTIFF Images on Terrain Data, 1st paragraph); retrieving, based upon said as-needed script, a plurality of viewer-readable files corresponding to the selected plurality of model sub-components' building the as-needed computer generated model from the plurality of retrieved viewer-readable files in a model viewing software application (pg. 7 figure 1 and paragraph 1); and displaying the as-needed computer generated model in the model viewing software application (pg.7, figures 1 and 2 and lines 2-3).

Claim 14. A system for building an as-needed computer generated model, comprising: a multi-dimensional-modeling tool for generating and storing a max-case model file relating to a max-case design model, wherein said max-case design model includes plurality of model sub-components (pg.1, Introduction, paragraphs 1-5 and pg. 3, System Requirements); a sub-component extraction utility electronically connected to said multi-dimensional modeling tool for extracting viewer-readable files for each of said plurality of model slab-components (pg. 1, Introduction, paragraph 1,2); a viewer utility electronically connected to said sub-component extraction utility for generating a max-case design script that includes at least retrieval information for each of said plurality of model sub-components (pg. 7, figures 1 and 2 and line 2); a product

configurator application electronically connected to said viewer utility for receiving a user selection of as-needed model subcomponents (pg. 1, Introduction, 1st paragraph and pg. 2, bullets 1-12); and a viewer application electronically connected to said product configurator application and said sub--component extraction utility for generating an as needed design script including retrieval information for each of the as needed model sub-components, retrieving, the viewer-readable files for each of the as-needed model sub-components, building the as-needed model from the retrieved viewer-readable files; and displaying the as needed model to the user (pg. 1, Introduction, paragraph 1; pg.4, paragraphs 1-8 and pg. 5, 1st paragraph).

Claim 15. The system of claim 14, wherein said viewer utility extracts location information for each of the model sub-components (pg. 7, figures 1 (i.e., pitch, roll, lat, long, mission time, etc.) and line 2).

Claim 16. The system of claim 14,(pg.1, Introduction, paragraphs 1-5 and pg. 3, System Requirements), wherein said sub-component extraction utility stores said viewer-readable files in at least one computer-readable medium.

Claim 17. The system of claim 14,(pg.1, Introduction, paragraphs 1-5 and pg. 3, System Requirements), wherein said product configurator application stores said user selection of as-needed model sub-components in at least one computer-readable medium.

Claim 20. The system of claim 14, wherein said viewer-readable files are stored in a VRML file format (pg. 2, Type of Source Files, row 8).

Claim 21. The system of claim 14, wherein said viewer-readable files are stored in a TIFF file format (pg. 2, bullet 9).

Claim 22. The system of claim 14, wherein said max-case design script and said as needed design script are stored in an ASCII file format (pg. 2, Type of Source Files, row 8).

Claim 23. The system of claim 14, wherein: said sub-component extraction utility further extracts spatial orientation information related to the three dimensional orientation of each of the model sub-components (pg. 1, Introduction, 1st paragraph; and pg. 4, 1st paragraph; and pg.4, Changing the View, paragraphs 1-7); said viewer utility further includes the spatial orientation information in the max-case design script (pg. 4, 1st paragraph); said product configurator application further receives, from the user, sub-component placement and orientation information for each as-needed model sub-component (pg. 5, Overlaying GeoTIFF Images on Terrian Data, 1st paragraph); and said viewer application further includes, within the as-needed design script, the received sub-component placement and orientation information (pg. 2, bullets 1-12).

Claim 24. The system of claim 23, wherein said spatial orientation information includes six degrees of freedom (pg. 2, bullets 1-12 and pg. 4, lines 2).

Claim 25. The system of claim 23, wherein said spatial orientation information includes coordinates for an angle of rotation about each of the x, y, and z axes (pg.1, Introductions, 1st paragraph; and pg. 4, 1st paragraph), relative to a pre-established coordinate axes, and an offset in each of the x, y, and z (pg.1, Introductions, 1st paragraph; and pg. 4, 1st paragraph) directions relative to a predetermined model center point (pg. 4, Changing the View, paragraphs 2,3,7,8 and pg. 5, 1st paragraph; and pg. 5, 3rd paragraph).

Claim 26. A system for building and displaying an as-needed computer generated model, comprising: a product configurator application for receiving a selection of a plurality of model sub-components that (pg. 1, Introduction, paragraphs 1-5 and pg. 3, System Requirements), when assembled together, form the as-needed computer generated model; a viewer application for executing an as-needed script related to the selected plurality of model sub-components, wherein the as--needed script includes retrieval information for each of the plurality of model sub-components (pg. 4, 1st paragraph and pg. 7, figure 1); said viewer application further retrieving, based upon said as-needed script, a plurality of viewer-readable files corresponding to the selected plurality of model sub-components (pg. 1, Introduction, paragraphs 1-3 and pg. 7 figure 1); said viewer application further building the as-needed computer generated model from the plurality of retrieved viewer-readable files in a model viewing software application (pg. 5, Moving Around the Model, paragraphs 1-7); and said viewer

application further displaying the as needed computer generated model in the model viewing software application(pg. 1, Introduction, paragraphs 1-3 and pg. 7 figure 1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

12. Claims 5, 6, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as unpatentable by Floating Point System Inc[®]. ("Welcome to the Landform Trial Version from Rapid Imaging Software (1997)), in view of Lomabardi (U.S. Patent 5,889,951 (1999)).

Floating Point System teaches a 3-D imaging software package called LandFormGold and LandForm C3, which allow the user to view geographical data in a three-dimensional representation; but doesn't have Internet capabilities.

Lombardi teaches users the ability to lease portions of the virtual environment, to create and modify the appearance and functionality of virtual sites on least portions to assign Internet site data and services to virtual sites (abstract: last sentence).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use Lombardi to modify Floating Point Systems Inc[®] since it would have been advantageous for a firm to implement a secure Internet/Intranet network for project assigned real-time analysis and design.

Claim 5. The method of claim 1, wherein at least the step of: extracting viewer readable files for each of said plurality of model sub-components (Floater: Introduction, paragraph); receiving a user selection of as-needed model sub-components (Floater: 2nd and 3rd paragraphs); and displaying the as-needed model to the user are completed at remote locations to each other (Floater: pg.2, bullets 1-12 and Lombardi: abstract, last sentence; column 1, lines 63-64 column 25, lines 5-6 and 59).

Claim 6. The method of claim 5 (Floater: pg.2, bullets 1-12 and Lombardi: abstract, last sentence; column 1, lines 63-64 column 25, lines 5-6 and 59), wherein the remote locations are connected by a computer network.

Claim 18. The system of claim 14 (Floater: pg.1, Introduction, paragraphs 1-5 and pg. 3, System Requirements; pg. 7, figures 1 and 2 and line 2), wherein at least said multi-dimensional modeling tool, said sub-component extraction utility, said product

configurator application, and said viewer application are located at remote locations to each other (Lombardi: abstract, last sentence; column 1, lines 63-64 column 25, lines 5-6 and 59).

Claim 19. The system of claim 18, wherein the remote locations are connected by a computer network (Floater: pg.1, Introduction, paragraphs 1-5 and pg. 3, System Requirements; pg. 7, figures 1 and 2 and line 2 and Lombardi: abstract, last sentence; column 1, lines 63-64 column 25, lines 5-6 and 59).

Conclusion

13. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Art Unit: 2123

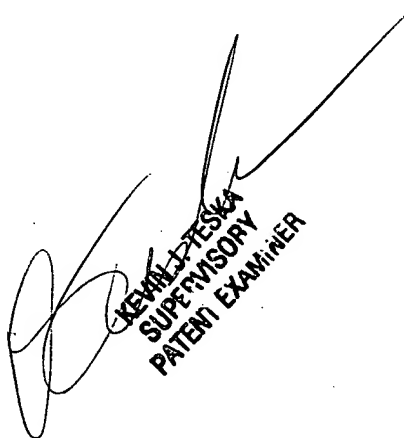
Correspondence Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mr. Tom Stevens whose telephone number is 571-272-3715, Monday-Friday (8:00 am- 4:30 pm) or contact Supervisor Mr. Kevin Teska at (571) 272-3716. Fax number is 571-273-3715.

Any inquires of general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose phone number is (571) 272-1400.

February 7, 2005

THS


KEVIN L. TESKA
SUPERVISORY
PATENT EXAMINER